

REPORT

OF

SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., January 15, 1896.

HON. CHAS. MAGUIRE, *Chairman*, THOMAS MORSE AND FREDERICK
MACK,
Board of Public Safety:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifth annual report of the Police Department.

I took charge of the department October 11, 1895, succeeding Captain Robert Campbell, Acting Superintendent of Police, consequently this report will consist largely of work accomplished by my predecessors in office.

As the tables on the matter will show, the force at present consists of 132 officers and men, classified as follows, viz.:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Superintendent of Police | 1 |
| Captains of Police..... | 2 |
| Sergeants of Police..... | 8 |
| Court Bailiff..... | 1 |
| Police Surgeon..... | 1 |
| Humane Officer..... | 1 |
| Turnkeys..... | 2 |
| Janitor..... | 1 |
| Patrol Wagon Drivers..... | 2 |
| Telephone Operators..... | 2 |
| Matron..... | 1 |
| Board of Children's Guardians..... | 1 |
| Chief of Detectives..... | 1 |
| Detectives..... | 8 |
| Patrolmen..... | 100 |

The last U. S. census gives this city (Indianapolis) 105,000 population, this is the city proper. With the number of patrolmen we have (100) there is less than one to every one thousand

in population. In addition to this we have in the suburbs adjacent to the city about 25,000 people who depend on this department for protection. The conditions as shown here, I think, are sufficient to warrant the increase of the force at least 25 patrolmen, and I earnestly recommend to your Honorable Board that this increase be made.

POLICE DISTRICTS.

The city is divided into twenty-six regular police districts, one patrolman day, two at night; seven special police districts. The special districts are patrolled by one patrolman. The special districts consist of street corner officers, Illinois Street tunnel officer, and an officer at Woodside, a portion of the city lying between the C, H. & D. and Big Four railroads, east of State Street. With three or four exceptions the districts are large, necessarily made so on account of the small number of patrolmen in the department. The patrolmen's districts are subdivided into seven Sergeants' divisions. Night time, one Sergeant to each division.

Division 1 consists of patrolmen's districts 23, 24, 25, 26.

Division 2 consists of patrolmen's districts 20, 21, 22.

Division 3 consists of patrolmen's districts 7, 8, 16, 17.

Division 4 consists of patrolmen's districts 14, 15, 18, 19.

Division 5 consists of patrolmen's districts 6, 9, 10.

Division 6 consists of patrolmen's districts 5, 11, 12, 13.

Division 7 consists of patrolmen's districts 1, 2, 3, 4.

By this arrangement of patrol districts the Sergeants keep in close touch with the patrolmen during their hours of duty. In this connection I desire to say to your Honorable Board that in my judgment, with the exceptions above noted, the districts contain too much territory for one officer to patrol and patrol properly, this is another good reason why the number of patrolmen should be increased.

PATROL WAGON SERVICE.

This department has at present in service two covered wagons, one of the wagons is comparatively new, but in bad order, for the reasons, as is stated to me by those in charge, that it was not properly built, considerable unseasoned lumber having been used in its construction, all of which occasions the wagon to be in the shop at times when the service demands the use of both wagons. The second wagon is old, but in fairly good order. The number of horses in the service is four, two for night and two for day service. Horses in fairly good condition. The number of men connected with the Patrol Wagon service is four, two drivers and two patrolmen detailed on the patrol wagon to take charge of prisoners when delivered to the wagon by officers on the different districts. Driver Jos. Steinruck acts as stable foreman and is responsible to the Superintendent of Police for the care of property and animals in his charge.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

As to the Telephone Service (if it can be called such) connected with this department, I can not find language sufficiently strong to express my disgust. The service at the present consists of fifteen old-time telephone boxes put up against telegraph poles on the street corners in different parts of the city, their location will be shown in another part of this report, and a small exchange at police headquarters, this plant was put in about eight years ago by Albert Travis, then Superintendent of Police, as an experiment, and for that time answered the purpose, but as for the present needs of the Police Department it is wholly inadequate. I respectfully recommend to your Honorable Board that you take this matter up immediately that the department may have telephone service that will answer the purpose intended.

ARRESTS.

The total number of arrests made during the year of 1895 was 6,040, against 6,614 in 1894, a decrease of 514. This in itself speaks well for the peace and quiet of the city during the past year.

HEALTH.

For the health of the members of the department, I respectfully refer you to the annual report of the Police Surgeon.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS.

As to the enforcement of the laws during the past year, I have no official knowledge, only during the past three months of the year. The first nine months of the year the department was under the direction of the then Superintendent of Police, Colonel Geo. W. Powell. During that time I am reliably informed and believe it to be true that the laws were enforced. In the past three months of the year of 1895 the laws, under instructions from your Honorable Board, have been enforced against all violators with much success, and I am satisfied that the coming year your Honorable Board or the citizens of Indianapolis will have no cause to complain of the actions of this department in the enforcement of the laws.

CENTRAL POLICE STATION.

The present city building was built about 1870; in 1878 a city prison was added. Under orders from your Honorable Board, I have had the building re-painted and papered on the inside, which adds much to the interior appearance of the building. As stated above, this building was constructed in 1870. The city at that time had a population of 60,000. The city police comprised in round numbers thirty men and officers. Since that time the population of the city proper has doubled, the police force has been strengthened by the addition of 100 officers and patrolmen, but the business of the department has to be transacted in the same building that it was twenty-five years ago. The necessity for a new and modern police station is apparent to any one who will take the time to visit the present Central Police Station. I heartily concur in the recommendation of my predecessor, Colonel Geo. W. Powell, to build two or more sub-police stations, to be located at some suitable point remote from the Central Police Station. I respectfully recommend that your Honorable Board take the

matter up at your early convenience and give it such consideration as in your judgment you think proper.

DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Detective Department is composed of one Chief of Detectives and eight detectives, with the chief in charge, subject to the orders of the Superintendent of Police. In the past year this department has been quite successful in preventing the commission of crime, and in the arrest and conviction of a great many noted criminals. The chief of this department, Timothy Splan, submits a detailed statement of the work of his department for the past year for your consideration.

DISCIPLINE.

It has been my earnest desire, as well as that of the Captains and Sergeants, to bring the standard of discipline in the department to the very highest point. The members of the department are required to be gentlemanly and courteous at all times, neat and clean in their personal appearance, and prompt in compliance with the rules and regulations of the department.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to return my thanks to His Honor, Thomas Taggart, Mayor, for his kindness shown and the assistance extended to me at all times in my efforts to give the citizens protection to life and property; to the members of the Board of Public Safety, Hon. Charles Maguire, Thomas Morse and Frederick F. Mack, for kind treatment and unanimous support; Richard C. Herrick, clerk of the Board, for courtesies and assistance in my work; the Police Captains and Sergeants for their efforts in contributing by their work to the success of the department; to the rank and file of the force for the good work done on their part in the past year, and last, to my clerk, John E. Engle, for the able manner in which he has discharged his duties as such clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. F. COLBERT,
Superintendent of Police.